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Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015
Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: technical assistance

Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In decision SC-4/23, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants endorsed the eight centres listed in annex I to the decision as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology for a period of four years. It also decided to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, their performance and sustainability and to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional or subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. In decision SC-5/21, the Conference of the Parties endorsed the seven centres listed in annex I to the decision as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology for a period of four years. It also decided to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, their performance and sustainability and to reconsider their status as regional or subregional centres under the Stockholm Convention at its seventh meeting.

3. In paragraphs 6 to 9 of decision SC-6/16, the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Noted that it had evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the eight centres endorsed in decision SC-4/23;

(b) Endorsed for a second period of two years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in annex I to the decision and decided to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional and subregional centres at its seventh meeting;

(c) Also endorsed the nominated Stockholm Convention centre listed in annex II to the decision as a Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centre for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, for a period of two years, and decided to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, its performance and sustainability and to reconsider its status as a Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centre at its seventh meeting.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.7/1.

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4. In line with the decisions cited above, the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology endorsed in decisions SC-5/21 and SC-6/16 will be evaluated by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

5. In paragraph 5 of decision SC-6/16, the Conference of the Parties adopted the methodology for evaluating the regional centres, as set out in annex III to the decision, which included a quantitative analysis to be used in the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of each centre, to be undertaken every four years, and which was based on the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9.

6. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of decision SC-6/16, the Conference of the Parties requested the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their workplans for the biennium 2014–2015 by 30 September 2013;

(b) Their activity reports for the period January 2013–December 2014 by 31 December 2014, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

7. In paragraphs 10 and 13 of decision SC-6/16, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a draft evaluation report on the regional centres listed in annexes I and II to the decision and in annex I to decision SC-5/21, based on the methodology mentioned in paragraph 5 of decision SC-6/16;

(b) To prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

II. Implementation

A. Workplans and activity reports of the regional centres

8. As at 16 January 2015, all 16 regional and subregional centres had submitted their workplans for the biennium 2014–2015 to the Secretariat. The workplans are available on the Stockholm Convention website.[1]

9. As at 16 January 2015, all 16 regional and subregional centres had submitted their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2014. The activity reports are available on the Stockholm Convention website.[2]

10. A table listing the status of submission of workplans and activity reports by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres is set out annex I to the present note.

B. Draft evaluation report of the regional centres

11. Pursuant to decision SC-6/16, the draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13. A summary of the draft evaluation report is set out in annex II to the present note.

12. The Secretariat has prepared a report on the activities of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres (see UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14).

C. Other activities to facilitate the work of the Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres[3]

13. Between September 2013 and December 2014, the Secretariat organized a total of 12 online meetings for the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions:

(a) Six online meetings were held, on 11 and 12 September, 9 and 10 October and 4 and 6 November 2013, with the objective of following up on the decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions at their respective meetings held in May 2013, in particular those decisions related to technical assistance and regional centres, with a view to preparing for the joint meeting of regional centres in 2013;

[1] http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx.

[2] http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReport/tabid/4112/Default.aspx.

[3] In accordance with joint activity 19 on coordination of and support to the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions.

(b) Six online meetings were held, on 24 and 25 September, 8 and 9 October and 5 and 6 November 2014, with the aim of raising awareness on the availability and use of the online activity reporting system for the regional centres and to prepare for the joint meeting of regional centres in 2014.

14. The annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions were held in Geneva from 27 to 29 November 2013 and on 27 and 28 November 2014 with the objective of enhancing the performance of regional centres and fostering regional cooperation and collaboration among them. The 2013 meeting focused on harmonizing the processes between the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, in particular regarding the templates used for preparing business plans, workplans and activity reports. The 2014 meeting focused on the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the regional centres to be undertaken by the respective conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2015. At the 2014 meeting, the Secretariat was requested to seek the approval of the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions to change the business plan/workplan cycles of the centres from the current two-year cycle to a four- or five-year cycle. The reports of these meetings are available on the Stockholm Convention website.[4]

15. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated as an ex officio member in the meetings of the Steering Committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region, in Trinidad and Tobago (online), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Central America Subregion, including Mexico, in El Salvador (on site and online), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region, in Argentina (face to face), and the Basel Convention /Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific, in China (on site).

16. In addition, the Secretariat participated in meetings organized by the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, in Uruguay (on site), to discuss ways to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance and by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre, in Mexico (on site), to discuss the re-launching of the Centre's activities after its restructuring.

17. On 31 October 2013, the Secretariat received a letter from the University of Panama informing it that the Centro de Investigación e Información de Medicamentos y Toxicos (CIIMET) under the University was no longer interested in continuing to serve as a Stockholm Convention regional centre (see UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14).

18. The Secretariat also continued to carry out technical assistance activities through regional centres, with financial support from the Government of Norway and the European Union, in 2013 and 2014. The report on capacity-building and training activities undertaken by the Secretariat is set out in a note by the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/14-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/17).

III. Proposed action

19. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of:

(a) The information provided in the note by the Secretariat on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology;[5]

(b) The workplans for the biennium 2014–2015[6] and activity reports for the period 2013–2014[7] submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat[8] and the summary of the draft evaluation report;[9]

[4] http://synergies.pops.int/Default.aspx?tabid=4177.

[5] UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11.

[6] Available at http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx.

[7] Available at http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReport/tabid/4112/Default.aspx.

[8] See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13.

(d) The report on the activities and information on the performance and sustainability of the regional and subregional centres;[10]

2. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties; [11]

3. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their workplans for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019 by 30 September 2015;

(b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 by 31 December 2016, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare:

(a) A report on the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision, based on the performance evaluation methodology adopted by decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(b) A report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

6. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision and to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional and subregional centres under the Convention at its ninth meeting;

7. *Invites* parties, observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans aimed at supporting parties to implement their obligations under the Convention.

Annex to decision SC-7[ ]

List of Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed for another four-year period by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting

[to be inserted]

[9] UNEP/ POPS/COP.7/11, annex II.

[10] See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

[11] Decisions SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

Annex I

Status of the submission of workplans and activity reports of the Stockholm Convention regional centres

Region	*Regional centres*	*Date of submission of workplans for 2014–2015*	*Date of Submission of activity reports for 2013–2014*
Africa	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	30 September 2013	26 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	9 October 2013	31 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC Senegal)	9 October 2013	2 October 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC South Africa)	21 October 2013	31 December 2014
Asia and the Pacific	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC China)	30 September 2013	31 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC India)	4 October 2013	29 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC Indonesia)	11 October 2013	31 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC Iran)	6 November 2013	14 January 2015
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC Kuwait)	30 September 2013	31 December 2014
Central and Eastern Europe	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czech Republic (SCRC Czech Republic)	1 October 2013	31 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Russian Federation (SCRC Russian Federation)	31 January 2014	16 January 2015
Latin America and the Caribbean	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	1 October 2013	23 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC Mexico)	2 April 2014	19 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC Panama)	10 January 2015	30 December 2014
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC Uruguay)	22 November 2013	31 December 2014
Western Europe and others	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Spain (SCRC Spain)	3 October 2013	31 December 2014

Annex II

Summary of the draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres[a]

Region	*Regional centres*	*Percentage of performance evaluation score based on activities reported for 2011–2012*[b]	*Percentage of performance evaluation score based on activities reported for 2013–2014*
Africa	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	**39**	39
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	**52**	94
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC Senegal)	**76**	82
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC South Africa)	**79**	91
Asia- and the Pacific	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC China)	**88**	100
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC India)	**49**	79
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC Indonesia)	**61**	61
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC Iran)	**36**	36
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC Kuwait)	**67**	52
Central and Eastern Europe	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czech Republic (SCRC Czech Republic)	**94**	100
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Russian Federation (SCRC Russian Federation)	**42**	39
Latin America and the Caribbean	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	**91**	100
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC Mexico)	**52**	70
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC Panama)	**58**	52
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC Uruguay)	**64**	82
Western Europe and others	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Spain (SCRC Spain)	**88**	88

[a] The full draft evaluation report is set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13.

[b] The numbers in bold had already been presented at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The remaining numbers were calculated in the same way as those in bold in order to allow for the comparison.